

U.S. Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Annual Free Fishing Day Event Set for June 9 at Burns Pond***

**HINES, Oregon** – Annual Free Fishing Day activities for Harney County have been set for Saturday, June 9, at Burns Pond. Local organizations and agencies are planning for good weather, hungry fish, lots of participants, and all kinds of excitement. Seniors, kids, and parents are encouraged to come out and make Free Fishing Day a fun family event.

Casting and fishing contests for those 16 and under or over 65 will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a free picnic lunch for everyone to follow. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers in various age groups for the biggest fish caught, first fish caught, saddest fishing story, and casting accuracy. Other prizes may be presented and all participants will receive a "Fishing-is-Fun" kit during registration. Fishers are encouraged to come prepared for the day, arrive early, and register before the contests start.

"Free Fishing Day is a great time for everyone to share in one of the nation's favorite pastimes," said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Biologist and event coordinator Tim Walters. "Participants can fish, learn about aquatic insects, practice casting and tying fishing knots, and share in an all-around good time with family and friends. Planning these activities in a single organized event creates a great atmosphere for passing the fishing tradition to Harney County's youth."

Those planning to attend should bring lawn chairs, fishing gear, sun block, a hat, insect repellent, and their favorite lure or bait. Drinking water will be on hand and extra fishing gear will be available for anyone who might not have their own. To reach Burns Pond, travel 2 miles east of Burns on Highway 78 toward Crane. The pond is on the south side of the road.

Free Fishing Day is held in combination with National Fishing and Boating Week and is supported by local agencies and businesses with generous food and prize donations. For those interested, free camping will also be offered at all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District campgrounds and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) campgrounds within the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, on Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9.

This annual event is organized and sponsored in part by BLM, ODFW, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, USFS, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, and the Burns Paiute Fish and Wildlife Department.

For more information on Harney County's Free Fishing Day, contact the Burns District BLM Office at (541) 573-4400 or the ODFW Office at (541) 573-6582.

